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May 14, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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REPORT BACK ON POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO PRIVATE AND NON-COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES SUITABLE FOR SHERIFF'S EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVERS' TRAINING (ITEM NO. 50-G, AGENDA OF APRIL 14, 2015)

On April 14, 2015, the Board, by motion from Supervisor Kuehl, amended by Supervisor Solis, instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back in 30 days on evaluating potential options for, in the interim, increasing the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) access to facilities suitable for emergency vehicle drivers' training, such as the Pomona Fairplex, including the feasibility of other private and non-County public facilities.

Background

For over 35 years, the Sheriff's Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (EVOC) Driver's Training facility has been located on the Los Angeles County Fair Association's (Fair Association) property in Pomona. The EVOC training is a certified program by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), in which deputy sheriff trainees are provided specialized instruction and maintenance of skills in driving emergency vehicles.

Over the last decade, Sheriff's access to the training facility has been impacted by the increasing number of Fair Association events. Per the lease agreement between the Sheriff and the Fair Association, the Sheriff can utilize the track and associated classrooms for automobile driver's training, riot control, and motorcycle training. However, priority use is given to revenue generating events scheduled by the Fair

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Association, such as the Pomona Fair. The majority of these events, which generate revenue for the County, are scheduled well in advance, and the Sheriff is provided adequate notice of the dates, which the EVOC facility is unavailable for use. However, there are last minute Fair Association events, which require the Sheriff's to cancel pre-booked training days at the EVOC facility.

Review of Alternative Facilities

The CEO-Real Estate Division conducted a broad search for a site that could accommodate the Sheriff's EVOC facility. The search returned an available site in Valencia owned by the US Postal Service; however, the parking area did not adequately meet the needs of the EVOC program. No additional sites were found that could potentially accommodate this unique program.

The Sheriff explored other development sites, such as the Irwindale Speedway, and the Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility (FCNYCF) in Whittier, which was closed by the California Youth Authority in 2004. Both sites were deemed infeasible due to the lack of acreage and property configuration needed to meet vehicle training track requirements. In addition, the FCNYCF property was sold to private developers in 2011.

In addition to development sites, the Sheriff contacted other publicly operated law enforcement drivers' training facilities to inquire about availability and a potential to lease space. The following facilities, within 100 miles of the current EVOC facility in Pomona, were contacted:

- Los Angeles Police Department, Granada Hills EVOC Facility
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department EVOC Facility

The Los Angeles Police Department has expressed that there is insufficient access due to current scheduling. In addition, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is currently under agreement with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and can offer no training days. Moreover, both facilities pose accessibility challenges for the Sheriff due to relocation of personnel, vehicle, and equipment to and from Pomona each training day.

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Conclusion

Based on discussions with other law enforcement agencies within 100 miles of the current EVOC facility, and after a review of available properties in the area, there is no potential for increasing the Sheriff's access to similar facilities to conduct the mandatory emergency vehicle training. The CEO and Sheriff will continue to work with the Fair Association to ensure that all potential training days are booked and utilized, pending any revenue generating event. Additionally, the CEO will work with County Counsel and the Fair Association on potential future lease renewal terms to include a greater number of guaranteed training days for Sheriff EVOC use.

SAH:JJ:TT:BMB
FC:MJD:zu

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Public Works
Sheriff